PATENT 67175524.001101

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Action rejects claims 86-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nicolson (U.S. 6,951,894). Claims 86-88 have been cancelled in the above amendments thereby rendering this rejection moot. Applicant therefore, respectfully requests the rejections as to claims 86-88 be withdrawn. Applicant has, however, cancelled claims 86-88 without prejudice and Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue any patentable subject matter in claims 86-88 at a later time.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Action rejects claims 89-94 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Nicolson in further view of Sullivan (US 7,017,394). Claims 89-94 and 96 have been cancelled in the above amendments. Applicant therefore, respectfully requests the rejection as to claims 89-94 and 96 be withdrawn. Applicant has, however, cancelled claims 89-94 and 96 without prejudice and Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue any patentable subject matter in claims 89-94 and 96 at a later time.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicant acknowledges that the Action indicates that claims 1-74, 84, and 85 are in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

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Applicant also acknowledges that claims 95 and 97-101 have been objected to as being based on a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend on a rejected base claim. Claims 95 and 97-101 have been cancelled in the above amendments. Applicant therefore, respectfully requests the objection as to claims 95 and 97-101 be withdrawn. Applicant has, however, cancelled claims 95 and 97-101 without prejudice and Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue any patentable subject matter in claims 95 and 97-101 at a later time.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that given the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. No new claim fees are believed to be necessitated by this response. The Examiner is requested to charge any additional fees that may be due with this response to deposit account 13-0480 referencing attorney docket no. 67175524.001101.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/13/04

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